

## Hostage training takes place at JDC



*Illinois Department of Corrections hostage negotiation training continues today on the campus of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.*

By Jim McCabe on September 25, 2014

The training began yesterday and resumed today at 9:00, lasting until 2 p.m. It'll go the same time tomorrow, the final day, according to IDOC statewide hostage negotiation coordinator Tiffany Whitten.

"It's a cross-training for all that would be involved if we had a hostage situation. What we do is utilize our statewide hostage negotiation team members, individuals located throughout the state at various facilities. We use our TACT commanders and assistant TACT commanders, we bring in command staff, which is comprised of wardens and incident commanders," she explains.

"We basically simulate what a situation might entail if we were to have one with [the Department of] Corrections, and then we play that out. We do think as if it were really happening so we can practice what we would do in a real situation."

This is the first time the state has used the JDC for this specific purpose, but this isn't the first time the JDC been used for something like this. Jacksonville Police Lieutenant Rodney Cox notes the grounds are being used for scenario-based training for local officers.

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“It gives us vacant buildings and stuff like that to do mock scenarios for our officers, to put them in situations to help them train, and then we also use it for our special response team- we do the same thing, set up mock scenarios, and also train on room-clearing stuff for us,” Cox says.

“We may use it out there two [to] three times a year at most for the SRT because we always do different training. We’ll utilize abandoned houses or stuff that people will offer up to us, but when we don’t have that other stuff, JDC grounds has been available to us to do our training out there.”

The JDC officially closed its doors last March. The last resident of the developmental center left in November 2012.

The area of the JDC where the training is taking place is closed off. Whitten says no weapons or ammunition is used.